

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1-11 (Canceled) Please delete.

12. (Currently Amended) A kit for assembling a casket, said unassembled kit assembly made of pre-cut panels, the assembly comprising:

- a. a pair of substantially flat end panels, each panel comprised of a composite base material and a binder compressed to form said end panels;
- b. a pair of substantially flat side panels, each panel comprised of a composite base material and a binder compressed to form said side panels and each side panel adapted to mate with the pair of end panels;
- c. a bottom panel comprised of a composite base material and a binder compressed to form said bottom panel, said bottom panel adapted to mate with the side panels and the end panels to define with the side panels and end panels an open box;
- d. a lid panel comprised of a composite base material and a binder compressed to form said lid panel, said lid panel adapted to cover the open box;
- e. wherein at least one of said panels further comprises a veneer applied to the unassembled panel.

13. (Currently Amended) The casket assembly of claim 12, wherein the veneer comprises a veneer material perforated with a plurality of pinholes ~~lid panel is hinged to one of said side panels along one edge.~~
14. (Currently Amended) The casket assembly of claim 13 ~~12~~, said veneer further comprising a lacquer overlaying said veneer material ~~including decorative brackets for securing the side, end and bottom panels in assembled relationship.~~
15. (Currently Amended) The casket assembly of claim 22 ~~1~~, wherein at least two of said panels are composite panels and each composite panel is separately covered with a veneer ~~comprises a composite material having:~~
- a. ~~a core layer comprising bonded wood particles;~~
 - b. ~~a decorative outer veneer; and~~
 - c. ~~an inner veneer.~~
16. (Currently Amended) The casket assembly of claim 15, wherein the ~~decorative outer~~ veneer comprises a thin wood veneer.
17. (Currently Amended) The casket assembly of claim 15, wherein the ~~decorative outer~~ veneer is a hardwood.
18. (Currently Amended) The casket assembly of claim 15, wherein the ~~decorative outer~~ veneer is a soft material.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The casket assembly of claim 15, wherein the ~~decorative~~
~~outer~~ veneer is cloth.
20. **(Currently Amended)** The casket assembly of claim 15, wherein the ~~decorative~~
~~outer~~ veneer is leather.
21. **(Currently Amended)** The casket assembly of claim 15, wherein the ~~decorative~~
~~outer~~ veneer is a metal foil.
22. **(New)** A casket assembly made of pre-fabricated panels, the assembly comprising:
- a. a plurality of panels defining a casket, wherein at least one panel is a composite panel comprising a base material and a binder compressed to form said composite panel; and
 - b. a veneer applied to the outer surface of said composite panel, said veneer comprising a veneer material perforated with a plurality of pinholes and finish coat overlaying said perforated material.